HELLO, I'M CHRISTY HOPPING.
I AM 32 YEARS OLD AND HAVE LIVED IN COLORADO SPRINGS ALMOST MY WHOLE LIFE. A FEW YEARS AGO I MADE THE MIND BOGGELING DISCOVERY THAT I'M TRANSSEXUAL. ALL THE PIECES OF MY LIFE FELL TOGETHER AND MAKE SENCE NOW. WHEN I GOT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND CARING MAN I COULD EVER HOPE FOR. DAN AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER NOW FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS. DAN HAS DONE GREAT IN ACCEPTING CHRIS TURNING INTO CHRISTY, EVEN LOOKS FORWARD TO MY SURGERY. I'M ONE OF THE FORTUNATE ONES TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP. IN THE MEAN TIME I'M GOING CRAZY WAITING FOR THAT BIG BAG OF MONEY TO FALL OUT OF THE SKY SO I CAN BE ME. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SELF EMPLOYED AND HAD A WIDE VARIETY OF BUSINESSES COME AND GO OVER THE YEARS. WE MADE ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPORT US, WITH A LITTLE PARTY MONEY LEFT OVER. SOUNDS LIKE A FAIRY TALE HUH.

DAN AND I HAVE EXCELLENT SALES ABILITY AND RAN ACROST THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN A SMALL JEWELRY STORE FOR A WEEK FOR NORM MEIER, OWNER OF COLORADO GOLD. WE DID OUTSTANDING IN SALES . THAT STORE AT BIGG'S IN DENVER WAS CLOSING THOUGH, SO BY AUGUST 91 WE FORMED A PARTNERSHIP WITH NORM TO OPEN A PERMINANT JEWELRY STAND IN CHAPEL HILLS MALL, IN COLO.SPGS. THIS WAS OUR OPPORTUNITY WE WAITED YEARS FOR. NORM WAS THE FINANCIAL BACKER OF THE STORE. MALL RENT WAS $25,000 A YEAR. WE WORKED 12 HOURS A DAY AND BUILT A HECK OF A BUSINESS CLIENTELL.

THEN CAME THE DISASTER OF OUR LIVES "AMMENDMENT #2". THERE WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLE OF THE K MART WING, AND JUST DOWN THE HALL WERE THE PRO #2 PEOPLE GIVEN FREE MALL SPACE BY SANDRA SNYDER THE MALL MANAGER TO GATHER SIGNATURES FOR THE AMMENDMENT TO BE PUT ON THE BALLOT. SANDRA HAS SINCE BEEN FIRED. BEING T.S. SOMETIMES I FAIL TO LOOK OR ACT IN THE PROPER GENDER, SO I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES SINGLED OUT BY THE FUNDAMENTALIST FOR ATTACK. THEY PREETY MUCH LEFT US ALONE THROUGH CHRISTMAS, WHAT A CHRISTMAS IT WAS. OTHER MALL MERCHANTS SAID WE SET THE STANDARD THEY STRIVE FOR. THEN IN JANUARY THE ATTACKS STARTED. LAUNCHED BY DARLEEN WHO WORKS IN SHOPPERS AID. WE WERE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO PICK UP YOUNG BOYS IN THE RESTROOM. ACCUSATIONS THAT WERE SEEN MOLESTING TEENAGERS IN OUR CAR IN THE PARKING LOT. THESE LIES WERE TOLD TO EVERYONE. PEOPLE WOULD WALK BY THE STORE AND SAY THEIR FAGGS . BY THIS TIME AFTER WORKING 6 MONTHS SOLID WITHOUT A DAY OFF WE DESPIRATELY NEEDED TIME OFF. WE WANTED TO CLOSE THE STORE AND SET UP SOMEWHERE ELSE BY MOTHERS DAY. NORM CHOSE TO KEEP THE STORE THERE AND DISOLVED PARTNERSHIP WITH US FEBUARY 92. SALES HAVE BEEN DISASTEROUS SINCE DAN AND I LEFT.

THROUGH WORKING IN THE MALL I MANAGED TO KEEP A SMALL BILLING BUSINESS WE HAVE HAD 5 YEARS. IN MARCH 92 A MANAGER OF ONE OF OUR CLIENTS NAMED BOB CALLED THE BOSS AND ACCUSED WHEN I READ METERS I PEEK IN PEOPLES WINDOWS AND THAT WE ARE HOMOSEXUAL AND SHOULD BE FIRED. THE CLIENT LIKED MY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS COMPANY AND DID NOT FIRE US. THAT SAME MONTH THE MANAGER OF ANOTHER CLIENT SHANGRI LA MOBILE HOME PARK CALLED ALL OUR CO WORKERS, AND MY OTHER CLIENTS AND TRIED TO GET US FIRED. ALSO TRIED TO HAVE US EVICTED FROM OUR HOME. WAYNE HANSON OWNER OF SHANGRI LA AND A FUNDAMENTALIST LIVING IN ORANGE CALIFORNIA FIRED US FOR CLAMED BILLING MISTEAKS. I HAVE HAD ONLY 1 DATA ENTRY MISTEAK IN THE 5 YEARS I'VE PERFORMED THIS WORK. I'M PROUD OF THAT RECORD.

AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES IN 92 FELLOW TENNANTS, THE ONES WITH ANTI ABORTION STICKERS PLASTERED ALL OVER THEIR CAR TRIED TO HAVE DAN & I EVICTED BECAUSE OF THE HOMOSEXUALITY ISSUE.

THIS SUMMER AT A LOCAL GREASE MONKEY LUBE CENTER ON 8 TH STREET , WHILE HAVING AN OIL CHANGE PERFORMED THE LUBE TECH UNDER THE CAR SAID " FUCKING FAGG" AND TORQUED THE OIL PAN BOLT SO HARD HE MOVED THE CAR. BREAKING THE INNER THREADED METAL OF THE OIL PAN COMPLETELY LOOSE FROM THE PAN. THEY CLAMED IT WAS DEFECTIVE. THE LITTLE 289 MUSTANG ENGINE HAD TO BE PARTIALLY REMOVED FROM MY CAR TO HAVE THE OIL PAN REMOVED AND WELDED FROM THE INSIDE. GREASE MONKEY REFUSES TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES. THIS CAR HAD A $7000 PROFESSIONAL RESTORATION ONLY 3 YEARS AGO. ALL 3 COLORADO SPRINGS GREASE MONKEYS ARE OPPERATED BY THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT..

JUST A WEEK BEFORE THE ELECTION 2 TEENAGE KIDS OF A COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE OFFICER SCRATCHED MY CAR AND PUT A BUSH BUMPER STICKER ON IT. I IN TURN SCRATCHED THERE CAR AND WAS ARRESTED FOR FELONY CRIMINAL MISCHIEF. 3 POLICE WITNESSES WERE CONJURED UP AGAINST ME, THAT WERENT ACTUALLY THERE, SAYING I DIDNT HAVE A HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE STICKER ON MY CAR, AND THE BOYS DIDNT TOUCH MY CAR. THEY REFUSED TOO LOOK AT THE SCRATCHES ON MY CAR, THE SCRATCHES ARE STILL THERE. I HAD TO PLEAD GUILTY TO MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND SERVE A DAY IN FELONY LOCK UP. VERY SCAREY WHEN YOU HAVE SHAVED LEGGS, AND ACT LIKE A GIRL. I HAVE TO PAY $1045 IN RESTITUTION AND AM ON 1 YEAR SELF GOVERNING PROBATION. MY CLEAN RECORD IS NOW TARNISHED. CASE # IS 92CR3179 HEARD BY JUDGE BOOTH.

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THEN CAME THE DISASTER OF OUR LIVES "AMMENDMENT #2". THERE WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLE OF THE K MART WING, AND JUST DOWN THE HALL WERE THE PRO #2 PEOPLE GIVEN FREE MALL SPACE BY SANDRA SNYDER THE MALL MANAGER TO CATTER SIGNATURES FOR THE AMMENDMENT TO BE PUT ON THE BALLOT. SANDRA HAS SINCE BEEN FIRED. RHINE T.S. SOMETIMES I FAIL TO LOOK OR ACT IN THE PROPER CHRIST, SO I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES SINGED OUT BY THE FUNDAMENTALIST FOR ATTACK. THEY PRETTY MUCH LEFT US ALONE THROUGH CHRISTMAS, WHAT A CHRISTMAS IT WAS. OTHER MALL MERCHANTS SAID WE SET THE STANDARD THEY STRIVE FOR. THEN IN JANUARY THE ATTACKS STARTED. LAUNCHED BY DARLENE WHO WORKS IN SHOPPERS AID. WE WERE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO PICK UP YOUNG BOYS IN THE RESTROOM. ACCUSATIONS THAT WERE SEEN MOLESTING TEENAGERS IN OUR CAR IN THE PARKING LOT. THESE LIES WERE TOLD TO EVERYONE PEOPLE WOULD WALK BY THE STORE AND SAY THEIR PRAYERS . BY THIS TIME AFTER WORKING 6 MONTHS SOLD WITHOUT A DAY OFF WE DESPERATELY NEEDED TIME OFF. WE WANTED TO CLOSE THE STORE AND SET UP SOMEWHERE ELSE BY MOTHERS DAY. NORM CHOSE TO KEEP THE STORE THERE AND DISOLVED PARTNERSHIP WITH US FEBRUARY 92. SALES HAVE BEEN DISASTEROUS SINCE DAN AND I LEFT.

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JUST A WEEK BEFORE THE ELECTION 2 TEENAGE KIDS OF A COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE OFFICER SCRATCHED MY CAR AND PUT A RUSH BUMPER STICKER ON IT. I IN TURN SCRATCHED THERE CAR AND WAS ARRESTED FOR FELONY CRIMINAL MISCHIEF. 3 POLICE WITNESSES WERE CONJURED UP AGAINST ME, THAT WERENT ACTUALLY THERE, SAYING I DIDNT HAVE A HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE STICKER ON MY CAR, AND THE BOYS DIDNT TOUCH MY CAR. THEY REFUSED TOO LOOK AT THE SCRATCHES ON MY CAR, THE SCRATCHES ARE STILL THERE. I HAD TO PLEAD GUILTY TO MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND SERVE A DAY IN FELONY JOCK UP. VERY SCARY WHEN YOU HAVE SHAVED LEGS, AND ACT LIKE A GIRL. I HAVE TO PAY $1642 IN RESTITUTION AND AM ON 1 YEAR SELF GOVERNING PROBATION. MY CLEAN RECORD IS NOW TARNISHED. CASE # IS 92CR1975 HEARD BY JUDGE BOOTH.

AMMENDMENT #2 HAS EVEN CAUSED MY PARENTS I TO BE CRUEL TO ME. THEY WERENT VERY ACCEPTING BEFORE #2 BUT NOW BECAUSE OF THE ATTENTION FROM #2, AND THE WORD HOMOSEXUAL A DAILY WORD IN NEWSPAPERS IT HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THEM. I'VE NEVER TOLD THEM I'M TRANSSEXUAL AND HAVENT RUN INTO THEM IN YEARS FOR THEM TO SEE. IF THEY CANT ACCEPT HOMOSEXUALITY THEY SURELY WONT ACCEPT THE FACT THEIR SON IS A GIRL. MY PARENTS ARE FUNDAMENTALISTS, BUT I LOVE THEM.

WITH ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME IN 92 I ONLY MADE ABOUT $5000 THAT YEAR. A BIG STEP BACKWARD TOWARD THE SURGERY I WANT WHICH SEEMS TO ENGULF MY EVERY MOMENT THINKING ABOUT IT. NO ONE ON EARTH COULD HAVE HAD MORE HATE INSIDE THEM THAN ME. I STILL FALL APART AND START CRYING BECAUSE OF THE PAIN INFLICTED ON ME LAST YEAR. LIKE MANY OF YOU I WOULD SIT AND THINK UP TERRIBLE THINGS TO DO TO THE FUNDAMENTALISTS. THIS HATE WAS DESTROYING ME INSIDE AND IT WILL DESTROY YOU TO. EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS OF DESCRIMINATION.

A WHILE BACK ONE COLD SNOWEY NIGHT I CHANGED A FLAT TIRE FOR OLD MANAGER OF SHANGRI LA'S WIFE. THE ONE THAT SO HEAVILY ATTACKED ME. SHE WAS GREATFUL. A FEW DAYS LATER HER HUSBAND CAME TO MY HOUSE AND SAID " I DONT HATE YOU, WE ARE ASHAMED OF THE WAY WE TREATED YOU." " THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS TO MY WIFE WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITOL." " NO MATTER WHAT MY PASTOR SAYS , I WISH THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU OUT THERE".
THIS HAD TO BE THE GREATEST FEELING IN MY LIFE, BECAUSE I WON. I WON AGAINST THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT. I THOUGHT I'D NEED PLASTIC SURGERY TO REMOVE MY SMILE . BY THE SIMPLE ACT OF CHANGING A TIRE AND HELPING MY FELLOW MAN I WAS ABLE TO SHOW THESE PEOPLE THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY DOES CARE, THAT WE ARE GOOD AND THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE. THE REWARD WAS FAR GREATER THAN THE EFFORT I PUT INTO IT. NOW THEY BRING ME HOMEMADE GOODIES AND HAVE SPEAKED OUT AGAINST THEIR OWN KIND WHEN OTHERS TRY TO SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT ME.

THIS PROVES MY BELIEFE THERE REALLY IS GOOD IN ALL PEOPLE. THAT PERSON THAT HATES YOU TODAY MAY BE THAT FUN FRIEND YOU HAD IN GRADE SCHOOL. WHAT A LOSS IT IS TO NEVER BE FRIENDS AGAIN. THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT WAS MANIPULATED AND TAUGHT BY A SMALL HANDFULL OF BIGGOTED PEOPLE TO HATE HOMOSEXUALS.MOST OF THE FUNDAMENTALIST COMMUNITY DOESNT WANT TO HATE, THEY ARE DOING WHAT THEIR LEADERS HAVE TAUGHT THEM. THEY ARE THE TYPE OF PEOPLE THAT NEED A CHURCHES GUIDANCE IN THEIR LIFE. DONT LET THEM USE THE BIBLE AGAINST YOU, TELL THEM TO READ LEVITICUS 19;26-28 , AND 19;19 IT SAYS ITS A SIN FOR A MAN TO SHAVE THE SIDE OF THEIR FACE. NUMBERS 31;32 SAYS WOMEN ARE CHATEL "OR PROPERTY" . NUMBERS 15;32 SAYS "DO NOT WORK ON SABBATH DAY, MEN CAUGHT GATHERING FIREWOOD ON SUNDAY;""THE LORD SAID STONE THEM TO DEATH." ASK FOR THEM TO SEEK OUT THE GOOD IN THE BIBLE AND TO USE IT TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THEIR DAY. TELL THEM YOU THINK THEY ARE A KIND AND INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL, AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE THEIR FRIEND. WOULD IT BE RIGHT TO HATE ALL GERMANS BECAUSE OF WHAT HITLER DID?. NO IT WOULDNT. NOR IS IT RIGHT FOR US TO HATE ALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS. WE HAVE BECOME AS HATEFUL AS THEY ARE. AND THAT ISNT GOING TO GET US ANYWHERE.

WE HAVE GOT TO TEACH THEM THAT WE ARE OF VALUE TO SOCIETY. THAT WE CAN BE GOOD NEIGHBORS, THAT WE CAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER IN THIS WORLD. THEY MUST LEARN TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT WHO THEY WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH. EDUCATING THEM WONT BE AN EASY TASK. IT CAN BE VERY FRUSTRATING. LIKE TEACHING MY PARROT TO TALK. SOMETHINGS I THINK HE WILL NEVER SAY ANYTHING. BUT I KEEP TRYING EACH DAY, AND I KNOW SOMEDAY HE WILL LEARN. TO TEACH THE FUNDAMENTALIST WE WILL HAVE TO WORK EXTRA HARD . SMILE AND SAY HELLOW TO THAT PERSON THAT DOESNT LIKE YOU. DO GOOD THINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY YOU LIVE IN. WHEN YOU GET DISCOURAGED , PUT THAT SMILE BACK ON THE NEXT DAY AND TRY AGAIN. WHEN SOMEONE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST YOU, KINDLY PERSUADE THEM TO HEAR YOUR POINT OF VIEW, AND DONT GIVE UP. AND LIKE MY PARROT, SOMEDAY THEY WILL LEARN. THIS IS HOW WE WILL END DESCRIMINATION AGAINST ALL PEOPLE.

BEING VISIBLE IS NECESSARY FOR OUR CAUSE, BUT VISSIBILITY ALONE AND FORCED ACCEPTANCE OF US WILL NOT MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD INSIDE. WHEN AMMENDMENT #2 IS REPEALED OR REPLACED , IF ALL WERE GOING TO DO IS BE VISSABLE, WE WILL STILL SUFFER THE HATRED AND ATTACKS AGAINST US. WE WILL HAVE WON A HOLLOW VICTORY. OUR WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO DISCINTAGRATE AS LONG AS PEOPLE HATE EACH OTHER. I DREAM OF THE DAY WHEN ALL PEOPLE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. I FORGIVE THOSE THAT ATTACKED ME LAST YEAR. WERE ALL STUCK HERE ON THIS EARTH, AND I DONT HAVE TIME TO HATE. JUST THINK OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE ALL USED THE ENERGY WE SPEND HATING EACH OTHER FOR A GOOD CAUSE. LETS TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

SMILE AND BE YOURSELF, AND BE PROUD OF YOUR SELF. BECAUSE YOU ARE A GOOD PERSON, AND SOMEDAY OTHERS WILL SEE THAT. SINCERELY CHRISTY HOPPING

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